

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MCT-01 DHA-02 /083 W

-----091506Z 110299 /50

R 091323Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2652

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 0782

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJ: ROUNDUP OF PAST WEEK'S EVENTS

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 00653 (NOTAL), B. ADDIS ABABA 00680 (NOTAL),

C. ADDIS ABABA 00683 (NOTAL), D. 76 ADDIS ABABA 12142 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THIS CABLE ATTEMPTS TO PUT IN PERSPECTIVE
WEEK-LONG SERIES OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO AND
CULMINATING IN FEB 3 EXECUTION OF 7 PROVISIONAL
MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) MEMBERS (REFTEL B)
AND SUBSEQUENT DEATHS OF 4 MENGISTU SUPPORTERS. VIOLENT JAN
27 STUDENT MEETING WHICH REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN DEATHS OF
5 STUDENTS (REFTEL A), ASSASSINATION OF 4 URBAN DWELLER'S
ASSOCIATION (KEBELE) LEADERS, REPORTED FEB 1 ASSASSINATION
OF "WORKER" AND FEB 2 ASSASSINATION OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE
PERMANENT SECRETARY TSEGAYE DEBALKE BACKGROUND OF INCIDENTS

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LEADING UP TO FEB 3 EXECUTIONS.IT APPEARS SOME PMAC ACCU-
SATIONS AGAINST CAPT. ALEMAYEHU HAILE AND CAPT MOGES WOLDE-
MIKAEL FOR THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLU-
TIONARY PARTY (EPRP) MAY BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY TRUE. RUMORS
OF FUTURE KILLINGS AND ARRESTS PERVADING OTHERWISE CALM ADDIS
ABABA ATMOSPHERE. END SUMMARY.

1. HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED FEB 3 EVENTS WITHIN MENELIK II PALACE WERE PLANNED IN ADVANCE. SOURCE STATED SEVEN EXECUTED PMAC MEMBERS (REFTEL B) ARRESTED BY PMAC OPERATIONS CHIEF LTCOL DANIEL ASFAW AND TAKEN INTO PALACE CAFETERIA. ONCE THERE ALL 7 SUMMARILY EXECUTED AROUND 1000 HOURS. AFTERWARD, MAJ. JOHANNES MITIKU ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE PALACE GROUNDS. WHEN REFUSED, HE PROCEEDED TO LTCOL DANIEL'S OFFICE WHERE HE FOUND DANIEL AND PROVISIONAL OFFICE OF MASS ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS (POMOA) VICE-CHAIRMAN DR. SENAY LIKKE. MAJ. YOHANNES KILLED DANIEL ON SPOT AND CRITICALLY WOUNDED DR. SENAY LIKKE, WHO DIED FOLLOWING MORNING. ALSO FATALLY WOUNDED IN GUN BATTLE WERE LCPL BELACHEW ARGAW AND SGT DAMTEW GUANGUAL, TWO PMAC SECURITY PERSONNEL WHO HONORED AT SIMULTANEOUS FUNERAL SERVICES WITH LTCOL DANIEL FEB 4. MAJ YOHANNES ALLEGEDLY KILLED BY OTHER PMAC SECURITY OFFICERS, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF HIM IN MEDIA. BIO INFO REPORTED IN FEB 5 AND 6 ETHIOPIAN HERALD OBITUARIES BEING POUCHED.

2. ANOTHER SOURCE CLOSE TO MAJ YOHANNES HAS ALLEGED FOR PAST TWO MONTHS THAT YOHANNES WAITING FOR OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO KILL BOTH MENGISTU AND ATNAFU. SOURCE CONTENTED YOHANNES HAD BEEN WAITING TO CORNER BOTH MENGISTU AND ATNAFU AT SAME TIME. HOWEVER, EMBOFF HAD DISCOUNTED CONTENTION, BECAUSE NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES HAD BEEN PASSED OVER. NOW THERE APPEARS
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TO HAVE BEEN SOME SUBSTANCE TO SOURCE'S CONTENTIONS. (MAJ YOHANNES REPORTEDLY SECURITY OFFICER ATTACHED TO PMAC.)

3. OFFICIAL PMAC STATEMENTS EXPLAINING FEB 3 EXECUTIONS ALSO LISTED REACTIONARY ACTIVITIES OF PAST WEEK. THESE INCLUDED ASSASSINATION OF 4 KEBELE LEADERS, OF TSEGAYE DEBALKE, AND OF "LEADER OF WORKERS" IN ADDITION TO "WOUNDING" OF 5 YOUTHS AT ADDIS ABABA UNIV. (EMB BELIEVES 5 WERE KILLED.) ALTHOUGH EPRP NOT DIRECTLY ACCUSED OF CRIMES, IMPLICATION CLEAR THAT "REACTIONARY REMNANTS OF FEUDAL OFFSPRING AND PAID AGENTS" STANDARD PMAC RHETORIC FOR EPRP AND ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION (EDU), RESPONSIBLE FOR URBAN TERRORISM. IN FEB 4 SPEECH AT PRO-GOVT RALLY, ADDIS ABABA KEBELE REPS ALSO ACCUSED EPRP OF WANTO ASSASSINATION OF 14 KEBELE LEADERS (THIS POSSIBLY INCLUDES 4 FROM FEB 3 PMAC STATEMENT) AND

BEATING UP AND WOUNDING OF 23 OTHERS. (IT ASSUMED
EPRP ATTACKS ON KEBELES HAVE OCCURRED SINCE NOV
ELECTIONS.)

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4. HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT MEMBER OF
POMOA, DIRECTED BY CAPT ALEMAYEHU, WROTE PAPER
DETAILING HOW EPRP COULD BE BROUGHT INTO FOLD. PMAC
DENUNCIATION OF 47-PAGE DOCUMENT WHICH "AIMS AT
PLANTING EPRP MEMBERS IN ORDER TO FOIL REVOLUTION,
DEMOLISH POMOA THROUGH KIDNAPPING ITS MEMBERS, CRUSHING
REVOLUTIONARIES, AND STAGING FASCISTIC COUP D'ETAT,
AS WELL AS ESTABLISHING PROVISIONAL PEOPLE'S
GOVERNMENT" APPEARS ACCOMMODATION WITH EPRP. ALTHOUGH
ALEMAYEHU MAY HAVE TOLERATED EPRP, IT DOES
NOT SEEM HE WAS EPRP MEMBER. HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCE
CLAIMS ALEMAYEHU HAD OWN GROUP OF ADVISORS AND WAS
LENDING HIS SUPPORT TO SEPARATE, THOUGH SMALL,
CLANDESTINE PART CALLED REVOLUTIONARY FLAME.
(REFTEL D) IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE
REVOLUTIONARY FLAME FUTURE IN ABSENCE OF ALEMAYEHU'S
SUPPORT, BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT CIVILIAN GROUP

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APPARENTLY OPPOSED TO BOTH EPRP AND POMOA-CONTROLLED ALL ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION (AESO). IF ALSO ALLEGED ALEMAYEHU DIRECTED ONE OF HIS ADVISORS TO WRITE REPORT DOCUMENTING POMOA ABUSES IN ADDIS AND ALL 14 ETHIOPIAN PROVINCES. NOT UNNATURALLY, CAPT MOGES WOLDE-MIKAEL, WHO FREQUENTLY LINKED WITH ALEMAYEHU AS COUNTER-WEIGHT TO MENGISTU'S POWER AND WHO RECENTLY (DEC 29) HAD ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR POMOA AS PMAC POLITICAL AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN, AMONG THOSE EXECUTED. THERE ARE RUMORS MOGES'S EXERCISE OF CONTROL OVER POMOA HAD BEGUN TO WORRY POMOA MEMBERS WHO BEGAN TO FEAR FOR THEIR OWN DISSOLUTION. THIS APPEARS TO BE FORESTALLED FOR THE MOMENT. MOGES HAD ALSO TAKEN CONTROL OF PMAC FINANCES.

5. RUMORS OF OTHER KILLINGS BY PMAC AND "WAVE" OF ARRESTS TO COME PERVADE ADDIS. HOWEVER, EMB ONLY ABLE TO CONFIRM 2 ARRESTS OF HIGH-RANKING EPMG OFFICIALS. MININFO PERMANENT SECRETARY TEFAYE TADDESSE, WHO AMERICAN -EDUCATED, PRESIDENT OF ETHIOPIAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION, AND ALLEGEDLY CLOSE FRIEND OF LTCOL ASRAT DESTA, ARRESTED FEB 4 FOR HAVING ROLE IN TEFERI BANTE JAN 29 SPEECH WHICH "FAILED TO MENTION EPRP'S ATTEMPT TO SUBVERT REVOLUTION" AND BEING SUSPECTED EPRP SYMPATHIZER. ALSO MIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESS OFFICER, TEFERRA SHAWEL, WHO ALSO CLOSE TO LTCOL ASRAT AND OPENLY "PRO-WESTERN" ARRESTED FEB 7 OR 8. THERE ALSO UNCONFIRMED RUMOR THAT PMAC SECURITY PERSONNEL, ACCOMPANIED BY AESO MEMBERS WHO POINTING OUT EPRP SYMPATHIZERS, SCOURING CITY AND ALLEGEDLY SHOOTING SUSPECTS ON SPOT OR ARRESTING THEM. EMB DOES NOT HAVE HARD EVIDENCE THIS OCCURRING, BUT IT ILLUSTRATIVE OF EXPECTATIONS OF SOME ADDIS ABABA ELITES IN WAKE OF PAST WEEK'S EXECUTIONS.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, ET, PMAC
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